DECLASSIFIED AV 4 IT-US

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PAGE 01 ROME 02565 191653Z

53
ACTION E-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-20 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COM-08 DODE-00 DOT-12
INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-20 NSC-10 L-04 P-03 PRS-01
USIA-12 RSR-01 /124 W

R 191605Z MAY 70
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4922

Rome 2565

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE 2 MAY 1982
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐.
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

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SUBJECT: CIVAIR

REF: ROME 2555

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1. FONOFF HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT ITALIAN SIDE COULD BE PREPARED FOR FORMAL SIGNATURE OF AIR AGREEMENT WITHIN FEW DAYS AFTER INITIALLING.

2. EMBASSY WOULD CONSEQUENTLY RECOMMEND FIRST WEEK IN JUNE AS TARGET DATE FOR SIGNATURE IN ROME BY FOREIGN MINISTER AND AMBASSADOR. FOREIGN MINISTER WILL SIGN FOR ITALY AS HE IS REQUIRED TO DO IN ALL CASES OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS INVOLVING PARLIAMENTARY RATIFICATION. COMING A FEW DAYS BEFORE JUNE 7 ELECTIONS SIGNING CEREMONY SHOULD HAVE FAVORABLE IMPACT AND COULD BE HELPFUL TO ELEMENTS IN ITALIAN SCENE FRIENDLY TO U.S.

3. HAVING PARTICIPATED IN THESE DISCUSSION FOR MANY YEARS, GENERAL SANTINI MANT WISH TO MAKE RATHER EMPHATIC PRESS STATEMENT AT TIME OF INITIALLING. UNLESS DEPT. PERCEIVES OVERRIDING OBJECTION, EMBASSY BELIEVES WE SHOULD BE GUIDED BY ITALIAN WISHES IN THIS REGARD, MAKING, IF NECESSARY, AN EXCEPTION TO OUR NORMAL PRACTICE OF LOW-KEY PRESS TREATMENT OF INITIALLING. ALTHOUGH CURRENT NEWSPARER STRIKE WHICH IS NOT SCHEDULED TO END BEFORE MAY 26 MAY REDUCE IMPACT IN ITALY, RADIO-TV COVERAGE WOULD STILL BE AVAILABLE.

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PAGE 02 ROME 02565 191653Z

4. WE URGE THAT ONCE AGREEMENT IS INITIALLED, 175 CLEARANCE PROCESS BE COMPLETED WITHOUT DELAY SO THAT DATE IN FIRST WEEK OF JUNE FOR SIGNING CEREMONY CAN BE SCHEDULED.
MARTIN

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25